

Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

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FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 6429

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 LONDON 17370

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ECON

SUBJECT: ECONOMIC SUMMIT

FOR SONNENFELDT FROM DOBBINS

1. NOVEMBER 11 MEETING OPENED WITH DISCUSSION OF PROCEDURAL ISSUES, PARTICULARLY QUESTION OF NOTETAKERS. AGREEMENT WAS REACHED, TO WHICH BARRE DID NOT OBJECT, THAT EACH DELEGATION AT SUMMIT WOULD BE PERMITTED ONE NOTETAKER TO SIT WITH INTERPRETERS AND PROVIDE THAT DELEGATION WITH RECORD OF MEETING. REST OF PROCEDURAL DISCUSSION WHICH OCCUPIED MOST OF DINNER COVERED NO NEW GROUND.

2. FOLLOWING DINNER DISCUSSION TURNED TO SUBJECT OF COMMUNIQUE. SHULTZ NOTED THAT ONCE ONE TURNED ONES ATTENTION TO THE ISSUE IT BECAME CLEAR THAT THERE HAD TO BE AGREEMENT ON HOW DISCUSSION AT THE SUMMIT WAS SUBSEQUENTLY PRESENTED TO PRESS AND PUBLIC. SHULTZ SAID US HAD PREPARED DRAFT OF WHAT SUCH A JOINT STATEMENT MIGHT LOOK LIKE FOR THE GROUP'S CONSIDERATION.

3. HUNT SAID WILSON HAD SERIOUS DOUBTS ABOUT DESIRABILITY OF COMMUNIQUE BECAUSE OF TIME ITS PREPARATION MIGHT CONSUME AT THE SUMMIT AND THE INHIBITING EFFECT ANY ATTEMPT TO ARRIVE AT A WRITTEN AGREEMENT MIGHT HAVE ON THE WILLINGNESS OF HEADS OF STATE TO ARRIVE AT LESS FORMAL
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UNDERSTANDINGS. HUNT SUGGESTED THAT RESULTS OF SUMMIT

MIGHT BE BETTER PRESENTED BY SINGLE AGREED SPOKESMAN.

4. BARRE MADE A STRONG PITCH FOR THE SUMMIT'S ADOPTING THE PRACTICE OF THE EUROPEAN COUNCIL WHICH CHOOSES ONE OF ITS MEMBERS (ITS CURRENT CHAIRMAN) TO PRESENT ITS DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS TO THE PRESS. HE ARGUED THAT WHILE A SUMMIT DESIGNED TO PRODUCE DECISIONS MIGHT REQUIRE A COMMUNIQUE, THIS SUMMIT, AS ENVISIONED, WOULD CONCENTRATE ON DELIVERING IMPULSES AND ORIENTATION WHICH COULD BE BETTER PRESENTED TO THE PUBLIC THROUGH A MORE INFORMAL MECHANISM. BARRE'S ASSUMPTION CLEARLY WAS THAT GISCARD WOULD PERFORM THE ROLE OF APPOINTED SPOKESMAN.

5. USHIBA SAID THAT SUCH AN ARRANGEMENT MIGHT WORK FOR EUROPE BUT WOULD NOT BE SATISFACTORY FOR JAPAN. THEIR PRIME MINISTER WOULD HAVE TO RETURN TO JAPAN IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING THE SUMMIT, BRIEFING THE PRESS ENROUTE AND THE DIET ON HIS RETURN. USHIBA THEREFORE HOPED THE SUMMIT COULD AGREE ON SOME SORT OF JOINT STATEMENT. USHIBA SAID HE HAD A DRAFT OF WHAT SUCH A STATEMENT MIGHT LOOK LIKE. (IN FACT WHEN DRAFTS WERE EXCHANGED AT THE CONCLUSION OF THE MEETING USHIBA HAD TWO SEPARATE PIECES OF PAPER TO PUT FORWARD.)

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 LONDON 17370

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6. POEHL PREFERRED TO RESERVE JUDGMENT ON DESIRABILITY OF A COMMUNIQUE UNTIL GROUP HAD DISCUSSED SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES BEFORE THE SUMMIT AND WAS THUS IN A POSITION TO

DETERMINE HOW MUCH AGREEMENT WAS POSSIBLE. POEHL SAID HE TOO HAD A SAMPLE DRAFT COMMUNIQUE WHICH HE DID NOT HAVE WITH HIM BUT WOULD PRESENT TOMORROW. (IN A LATER CONVERSATION WITH SHULTZ POEHL SAID THAT HIS DRAFT LOOKED MORE LIKE THAT WHICH SHULTZ HAD CIRCULATED.)

7. HUNT SAID THAT WHILE THE UK HAD DOUBTS ABOUT THE UTILITY OF A COMMUNIQUE, HE TOO HAD SOME DRAFT "TALKING POINTS."

8. SHULTZ CONCLUDED BY NOTING THAT TOMORROW'S MEETING SHOULD DISCUSS BOTH THE SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES ON THE SUMMIT AGENDA AND THE VARIOUS DRAFT STATEMENTS CIRCULATED. HE SUGGESTED THAT WHILE THIS GROUP COULD NOT ITSELF NEGOTIATE ANY SUCH DOCUMENT IT COULD AGREE THAT SOME SUCH DECLARATION WOULD BE NECESSARY, AND RECOMMEND THAT DESIGNATED OFFICIALS, OTHER THAN THOSE PARTICIPATING IN THE SUMMIT, PRODUCE SUCH A DOCUMENT DURING THE COURSE OF THE SUMMIT. US, UK AND JAPANESE DRAFTS WERE CIRCULATED. UK AND TWO JAPANESE TEXTS FOLLOW SEPTTEL.

RICHARDSON

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